generated in the proposed power project, and

(d) The total No. of hectares of land expected to be irrigated in West Bengal as a result of this project ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) His Majesty, the King of Bhutan, paid a State visit to India from 4-7 January, 1993. The visit has further strengthened our friendly relations with Bhutan. During the visit a Memorandum of Understanding on the Sankosh Multipurpose Project was signed. The detailed project report for Sankosh Multipurpose Project would be completed by end 1995.

(c) The financing of the project would be decided by mutual agreement between the Government of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan.

The project is expected to generate about 1525 MW of power.

(d) The irrigable area falling in Bhutan and the Indian State of West Bengal and Assam would be known on the completion of the Detailed Project Report.

Prosilytism of Hindus in Bangladesh

1782. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the recent Human Rights report of the US State Department has recorded prosilytism of a large number of Hindus and Tribal people in Bangladesh;

(b) whether the said report has also confirmed an increase of custodial abuse and deaths in 1992 as compared to 1991; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to freedom of religion and equality of treatment for the Hindus and Tribals in Bangladesh ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a reference to the phenomenon of prosilytism of Bangladeshi citizens in the US State Department's Report on Human Rights, 1992. It has also stated that there were credible reports of custodial abuse and deaths in Bangladesh.

(c) As the Honourable Member will no doubt appreciate, it is the responsibility of the Government of Bangladesh to assure freedom of religion and equality of treatment for the Hindus and Tribals in Bangladesh. However, we have, from time to time, mentioned maltreatment of minorities to Bangladesh Government.

Pending Border issue with China

1783. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total Indian territory under occupation of China now;

(b) whether steps have been taken by Government to resolve the border issues pending with the Government of China; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken to get back the Indian territory ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) :

(a) The area under occupation by China in Jammu and Kashmir is approximately 38,000 sq. kms. In addition, in the so-called Sino-Pakistani "Boundary Agreement" of 1963, Pakistan has illegaly ceded approximately 5120 sq. kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China.

(b) and (c) Government is continuing its efforts to find a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the India-China boundary question through peaceful negotiations. In the five meetings of the India-China Joint Working Group on the boundary-question held so far, both sides are seeking ways to narrow their differences on the boundary question and to establish measures to ensure the maintenance of peace and tranquility all along the Line of Actual Control. The sixth meeting of the Joint Working Group is expected to be held this year.

Vituperative attack by Pakistan P.M.

1784. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent vituperative attack by the Pakistan Prime Minister at the U.N. Human

Rights Commission against the Indian Government's handling of the Ayodhya issue;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) Government have noted the address by the Prime Minister of Pakistan to the 49th Session of the Commission on Human Rights at Geneva on 2nd February 1993 where he alleged that Babri Masjid was allowed to be destroyed and thousands of Muslims were killed in ensuing Violence.

(c) Government have conveyed to Government of Pakistan our deep regret and strong disappointment over such statements, which apart from constituting an unacceptable interference in our internal affairs, served only in exacerbating public sentiments.

India's Nuclear and Space Programme

1785. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India's nuclear and space programmes will be significantly affected by the recent US initiated revision of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), as per the news item entitled 'Revised MTCR to affect India's Plans', which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated February 2, 1993; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) USA and other members of the MTCR announced revised guidelines extending the scope of restrictions from "missiles capable of carrying nuclear weapons" to "missiles capable of carrying any weapon of mass destruction", thus lowering the thresholds established earlier. Specific thresholds however, have not been announced under the revised guidelines. In May 1992, the US imposed an embargo on ISRO for a period of two years in respect of components and systems for space programmes. This embargo is still in operation. Despite these restraints, the Government is committed to pursuing the space programme with a view to establishing a self-reliant base in space sciences and space technology.

Observations of Pakistan P.M. on Kashmir Issue

1786. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have seen reports of the observations of the Prime Minister of Pakistan on the Kashmir issue during his address to the U.N. Commission on human rights in Geneva on February 2, and also Pakistan National Assembly's resolution on the same subject in its session on February 4, 1993;

(b) whether Government is aware that the Jammat-i-Islami has called an all party meeting in Lahore on February 6, 1993 to express solidarity with the militants and terrorists in Kashmir; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take or has taken to warn Pakistan Government against blatant interference in India's international affairs ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Pakistan's attempts to internationalise the Kashmir issue are in violation of the Simla Agreement. This is deeply regrettable and raises serious doubts about Pakistan's sincerity in pursuing a bilateral dialogue. Pakistan's recent statements and actions are totally unacceptable, constituting an interference in our internal affairs. Government have firmly told Pakistan that in order to create an atmosphere for any meaningful discussions Pakistan should abandon its negative and confrontational approach and give up its support to terrorism and subversion directed against India.

Passport issued by the Passport Offices

1787. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) number of applications for passports received in each week during January to